

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4755

To establish a permanent fund to ensure the continued maintenance and rehabilitation of the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2000

Mr. PETRI (for himself and Mr. RAHALL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To establish a permanent fund to ensure the continued maintenance and rehabilitation of the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Woodrow Wilson Me-
5 morial Bridge Preservation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SECRETARY FOR THE**
7 **WOODROW WILSON MEMORIAL BRIDGE.**

8 (a) MAINTENANCE, REHABILITATION, AND EXPAN-
9 SION OF EXISTING BRIDGE.—The Secretary of Transpor-
10 tation shall be solely responsible for the maintenance, re-

1 habilitation, and expansion of the existing Woodrow Wil-
2 son Memorial Bridge over the Potomac River between the
3 States of Virginia and Maryland until all conditions under
4 section 5 are met. The Secretary shall consult with the
5 Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Maryland, and
6 the District of Columbia from time to time on the oper-
7 ating, maintenance, and rehabilitation needs of the bridge.

8 (b) COORDINATION OF AGREEMENT.—Sections 2(A),
9 2(B), and 2(C) of the agreement of April 19, 1985, be-
10 tween the Secretary of Transportation, the Commonwealth
11 of Virginia, the State of Maryland, and the District of Co-
12 lumbia, related to the assignment of responsibility for the
13 operation and maintenance of the bridge shall remain in
14 effect.

15 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The contract authority, and asso-
17 ciated obligational authority, provided by section 412 of
18 the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995
19 (112 Stat. 159–160) and section 110 of title 23, United
20 States Code, for the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge
21 shall be designated as the Woodrow Wilson Memorial
22 Bridge Preservation Fund (in this section referred to as
23 the “Fund”) and shall be maintained as such within the
24 Department of Transportation.

1 (b) USES OF THE FUND.—The Fund shall be avail-
2 able to the Secretary for the maintenance, rehabilitation,
3 and expansion of the existing Woodrow Wilson Memorial
4 Bridge for the purpose of keeping the bridge in a condition
5 sufficient to facilitate interstate traffic in an efficient and
6 safe manner. Amounts in the Fund shall only be available
7 for those portions of the bridge that are owned by the Fed-
8 eral Government.

9 (c) REPLENISHMENT OF THE FUND.—Before Octo-
10 ber 1 of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall estimate the
11 balance in the Fund for such fiscal year. If the balance
12 is projected to be below \$50,000,000, the Secretary shall
13 deduct from apportionments made to the Commonwealth
14 of Virginia and the State of Maryland under section 104
15 of title 23, United States Code, sufficient contract author-
16 ity and obligation authority to restore the projected Fund
17 balance to \$50,000,000. The obligation authority deducted
18 shall be available until expended.

19 (d) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall prepare
20 and transmit to Congress an annual report on the condi-
21 tion of the bridge.

22 **SEC. 4. TRANSPORTATION PLAN.**

23 (a) DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary of Transpor-
24 tation, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Mary-
25 land, and the District of Columbia shall develop a trans-

1 portation plan for the Capital Beltway corridor (Interstate
2 Route 495) served by the Woodrow Wilson Memorial
3 Bridge project. The plan shall establish what level of high
4 occupancy vehicle lanes and transit service should be pro-
5 vided in the corridor and how such service should be ac-
6 commodated on a replacement bridge.

7 (b) CONSULTATION.—The plan shall be developed in
8 consultation with appropriate local jurisdictions and met-
9 ropolitan planning organizations.

10 (c) FUNDING.—The cost of developing the plan may
11 be paid from the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge Pres-
12 ervation Fund.

13 **SEC. 5. CONSTRUCTION OF REPLACEMENT BRIDGE.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Upon certification to Congress by
15 the Secretary of Transportation that all of the following
16 conditions have been met, the balance in the Woodrow
17 Wilson Memorial Bridge Preservation Fund shall be avail-
18 able for the construction of a replacement for the existing
19 Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge:

20 (1) The transportation plan required under sec-
21 tion 4 has been completed and approved by the Sec-
22 retary, the Governors of Virginia and Maryland, and
23 the mayor of the District of Columbia.

24 (2) Title to the existing bridge has been trans-
25 ferred from the Federal Government to the Com-

1 monwealth of Virginia or the State of Maryland, or
2 both.

3 (3) The Commonwealth of Virginia and the
4 State of Maryland have developed a finance plan to
5 pay for all costs of the replacement bridge project in
6 excess of the current Federal payment provided by
7 the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century
8 and have signed an agreement with the Secretary to
9 pay for all cost overruns to the finance plan. The
10 plan shall give priority to the use of such Federal
11 payment for the bridge component of the project.

12 (b) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—In developing a replace-
13 ment bridge and its approaches under subsection (a), the
14 Secretary upon petition by the States of Virginia and
15 Maryland, may waive any requirement of title 23, United
16 States Code, other than sections 113 and 138 of such title,
17 that the States have determined to cause unreasonable in-
18 creases in the cost of the project.

19 **SEC. 6. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

20 It is the sense of Congress that—

21 (1) the \$900,000,000 Federal payment in the
22 Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century to
23 replace the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge is the
24 final Federal contribution for that project;

1 (2) any of the Federal payment remaining after
2 completion of the replacement bridge shall be avail-
3 able to pay for costs associated with construction of
4 approaches to the bridge; and

5 (3) all project costs not associated with the
6 bridge component are the responsibility of the Com-
7 monwealth of Virginia and the State of Maryland as
8 was the case with the construction of the existing
9 bridge.

10 **SEC. 7. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

11 Section 412 of the National Highway System Des-
12 ignation Act of 1995 (112 Stat. 159–160) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (a)(1) by striking “of plan-
14 ning” and all that follows through the period at the
15 end of such subsection and inserting “of mainte-
16 nance and rehabilitation by the Secretary of the ex-
17 isting Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge.”; and

18 (2) by striking subsection (c).

19 **SEC. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

20 This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall
21 take effect September 30, 2000, and shall apply to fiscal
22 years beginning after such date.

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